



Messiah Lutheran Church
1796-15 Avenue East, Prince Albert, S6V 8A1
Website: www.messiahluthpa.com
Facebook and YouTube: MessiahLutheranChurchPrinceAlbert



Pastor Dan Haugen
Cell: 306-960-9686
Email: pastor.mlc@sasktel.net

Lisa Haight / Messiah Office
Ph: 306-763-7374 / Fax: 306-763-6284
Email: messiah@sasktel.net

Messiah Office Hours: Tuesday – Friday 9am - 4pm

**Worship for Sunday, December 11, 2022
Third Sunday of Advent/Food Bank Sunday**

Sunday Worship Services begin at 10:30 am in-person and livestreamed/posted on the Messiah YouTube channel. **Wearing of masks is not required but Messiah is a mask-friendly environment.** Covid vaccinations, social distancing, and hand sanitizing are encouraged. **Due to water main issues, the building is without water, with limited access to washrooms (some water is available for emergency flushing purposes).** All are welcome to join in pre-service coffee time in the Peace Chapel (and sometimes George brings cookies!!!).

Prayers for Healing and On-Going Health Concerns:

We pray for comfort and healing for all those who are suffering in body, mind or spirit; give them courage and hope in their time of need.



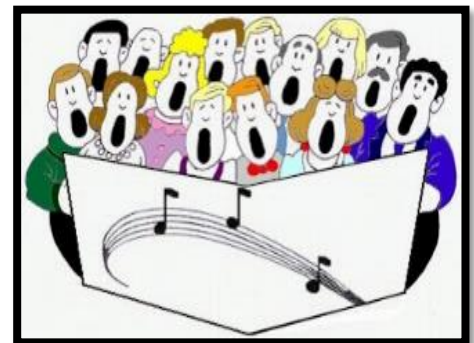
This Sunday:

- **Food Bank Sunday, December 11, and throughout Advent:** Food and other items are being collected for donation to the Food Bank. These items can be **dropped off on Sunday mornings or during Messiah office hours.** A list of food suggestions is provided in the Narthex.
- ***The Advent Choir will be singing.***
- ***Messiah Lutheran Women (MLW) Bible presentation.***

ADVENT CHOIR

If you are interested in singing during Advent; practices are held Sunday mornings at 9:15 am.

Please contact May Janzen or Colleen Bowen for further information.



Women of Messiah - Christmas gathering on Thursday, December 15 at 7pm in the Peace Chapel. To enjoy a time of fellowship, refreshments (chocolate fondue – bring fruit for dipping), and Christmas carols, **please RSVP by Monday, December 12, to the Messiah office [306-763-7374 or messiah@sasktel.net]** so we have a general idea of how many people to expect. But if you forget to RSVP, come anyway! We promise to have a little extra chocolate.



Christmas Hampers for Families in Saskatchewan Rivers Schools: You can help by a monetary gifts and donation of food items to fill **at least seven** hampers. Drop off food items in the designated box or the Messiah office. Monetary donations can be dropped off or e-transferred. If you are donating, please do so by **December 15**, for assembly and pick up/delivery prior to the school Christmas break. Further details will be in the Christmas Newsletter. Thank you!



Christmas Service Poinsettias: donated plants can be dropped off at the Messiah office no later than Wednesday, December 21, by 12 noon. If you are donating a Poinsettia in memory of someone, please phone (leave a message) or email the Messiah office by noon, December 20.

Mitten Tree: Messiah Lutheran Women have set up two boxes as a “mitten tree” for the collection of mitts, toques, scarfs and gloves, in the Narthex and another in the Messiah office entry. These articles are given to a community school or organization for children and families without these necessities.

Memorial Christmas Tree:

★ ★ ★ 🌲 REMEMBERING: During Advent, a STAR ornament, is provided for you to hang on the Memorial Christmas Tree. You can write the names of those you wish to remember on the star. After Christmas the star will be available for you to take home. If you would like a star to be hung on the tree, but will not be at Messiah, please contact the Messiah office with your information. REMEMBERING. ★ ★ ★ 🌲



Canadian Lutheran World Relief: Gifts From The Heart catalogue has something to inspire and delight anyone on your list this year. It's full of meaningful, tangible gifts that will touch your loved ones and share God's love with the world! Copies are available at Messiah, by emailing clwr@clwr.org or you can shop online at clwr.org/GFTH.



From progressive ministries to practical spiritual guidance, *Canada Lutheran* introduces you to people and ideas from across Canada that provoke discussion and connect you to our congregation, Saskatchewan Synod, the National Church, and our global ministries – helping you to live your life *In Mission for Others*. For \$19.50 (about \$2.50 per issue), you will receive 8 issues a year, as well as access to a Full Digital Copy. To subscribe for 2023, please contact the Messiah office by December 22, or phone/text Cheryl at 306.961.2967.



EVERY MONDAY DURING ADVENT, the national church leaders of The Anglican Church of Canada, The Evangelical Lutheran in Canada, The Presbyterian Church in Canada and The United Church of Canada will release an ecumenical Advent meditation reflecting the Advent themes of hope, peace, joy and love, and challenges facing the Canadian churches. **EVERY THURSDAY**, join in a live discussion, via Zoom, with one of the leaders on that week's Advent theme. To receive the meeting link for each event and receive email reminders of each week's upcoming events, visit Advent2022.ca

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (ELW p. 94)

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Gracious God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

GATHERING: ADVENT CHOIR

LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH

Uncontainable, irrepressible, bubbling up in an explosion of energy. What the weary long for, what children often embody, what makes the God smile – joy. It cannot be paid for, but joy is a priceless treasure. As we hope for your arrival, as we pray for peace in our lives, as we wait and watch and wonder how you might reveal yourself to us, God give us joy in your Advent.

Light three candles.

Joy is not a commodity that can be bought or sold, but lives deep in the human spirit. Help us to hear that truth and believe it. Help us let go of what our consumer culture says will bring us happiness – money, success, a scramble to the top that leaves us flat. If we have robbed others of what they need in our clamour and quest for more than our fair share, forgive us. Help us hear the call of John the Baptist to turn around and begin again. God of love, we were made in joy. May we live that way.

Congregation: We light a candle for joy. May it light the way.

ADVENT HYMN: ELW#240 Light One Candle to Watch For Messiah (vs 1-3)

GREETING (ELW p. 203)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

KYRIE ELW#262 'Wait for the Lord' (x2)

HYMN OF PRAISE ELW#239 'Hark, the Glad Sound'

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. **Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1-10

The prophet describes the return from the Babylonian captivity as a joyous procession to Zion. God's coming reign will bring a renewal of creation and of the lives of God's people in which health and wholeness will be restored. There is no need for fear, for God is coming to save.

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. ³Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." ⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁸A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. ⁹No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 146:5-10

⁵Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God.

⁶He is the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them - he remains faithful forever.

⁷He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets prisoners free,

⁸the Lord gives sight to the blind, the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down, the Lord loves the righteous.

⁹The Lord watches over the foreigner and sustains the fatherless and the widow, but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.

¹⁰The Lord reigns forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations.

SECOND READING: James 5:7-10

In anticipation of the Lord's coming, Christians are called upon to cultivate patience rather than discontent.

⁷Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also must be patient.

Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 205)

**Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word.
Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.
Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.**

GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-11

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

John the Baptist expects the Messiah to bring God's judgment upon the earth (Matt. 3:11-12). From a prison cell, he wonders whether Jesus is the one who will do this. Jesus' response indicates that God's reign is indeed being fulfilled already through healing and restoration.

²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ⁴Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." ⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' ¹¹Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

MESSIAH LUTHERAN WOMEN – PRESENTATION OF BIBLES

SERMON: Pastor Dan

HYMN OF THE DAY: OSB#35 'Come To My Heart, Lord Jesus' (vs. 1,4, 5)

APOSTLE'S CREED (ELW p. 206)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope, praying . . . God, in your mercy; and responding **hear our prayer.**

. . .

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p. 208)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

THANKSGIVING

OFFERING HYMN: ELW#292 'Love Has Come'

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. **God of abundance, we bring before youth gifts of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all people and their many needs until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG: ELW#253 'He Came Down'

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**